

**House of Representatives
Judiciary
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2003**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
September 18-19	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Local government civil liability.	Work Session
September, week of Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Work Group	Childhood sexual abuse.	Work Session
September, week of Committee Assembly	TBA	Olympia	Work Group	Videotaping of custodial interrogations.	Work Session
November	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Local government civil liability.	Work Session
December 4-5	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	1. Videotaping of custodial interrogations - review of draft legislation. 2. Report on the Supreme Court's "Court Funding Task Force."	Work Session

Project Title: Local Government Liability

Priority: 1

Completion Date: December, 2003

Committee / Staff: Edie Adams and Trudes Hutcheson

Reference: HB 1274, HB 1764, HB 2051,
HB 2126, SB 5673, and SB
5728

Other Resources:

Project Description: Local governments have identified increasing civil liability exposure as a major concern and have come to the Legislature for help in addressing this concern. In the 2003 session, the committee heard a number of bills dealing with local government civil liability in several specific areas. These bills and areas of concern include: HB 1274 dealing with post-judgment interest; HB 1764 dealing with liability for the conduct of defendant's placed on pretrial supervision; SB 5673 dealing with jail liability for the conduct of released offenders; HB 2126 dealing with liability for long-term in-home care services provided by Area Agencies on Aging; and HB 2051 dealing with the inability to introduce evidence of failure to wear a seatbelt. In addition, SB 5728 addressed local government liability more generally by eliminating joint and several liability, placing limitations on attorneys' fees, and capping damage payments in civil actions involving local government entities.

The committee will engage in a comprehensive look at the issue of increasing local government liability and possible solutions to the problem. In addition to looking at the specific areas of concern mentioned above, the committee will examine local government liability generally by examining the statutory and case law changes that have led to the current liability exposure of local governments. The committee will explore ways to address excessive liability exposure while maintaining a balance with the rights of victims of government negligence to seek redress for their injuries. The committee hopes to accomplish this through research and work sessions involving input from representatives of local governments and other interested stakeholders. The committee will coordinate with the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee and the Health Care Committee to the extent that aspects of the project raise issues of concern to those committees.

Project Title: Childhood Sexual Abuse

Priority: 2

Completion Date: October, 2003

Committee / Staff: Edie Adams

Reference: HB 1040 and HB 1089

Other Resources:

Project Description: Last session the committee heard two bills dealing with childhood sexual abuse. HB 1040 removed the statute of limitations for bringing a civil cause of action for childhood sexual abuse. HB 1089 removed the statute of limitations for bringing criminal charges based on childhood sexual abuse. These two bills generated a great deal of discussion about how the current statutes of limitations in the civil and criminal contexts may serve to prevent victims of childhood sexual abuse from seeking redress and prevent abusers from being held accountable for their actions and about the important role that statutes of limitations play in the justice system. A work group consisting of four representatives (three members of the committee and Rep. Ahern) and interested stakeholders will meet to continue the discussion on the issue with a goal of developing legislation supported by all stakeholders.

Project Title: Videotaping of Custodial Interrogations

Priority: 3

Completion Date: December, 2003

Committee / Staff: Edie Adams

Reference: HB 1932

Other Resources:

Project Description: Last session HB 1932 dealing with videotaping of custodial interrogations was referred to the committee but never heard. A work group of four representatives and interested stakeholders will meet to examine the desirability and feasibility of videotaping law enforcement custodial interrogations, with a goal of drafting legislation for the December committee assembly meeting. The work group will examine the efforts of the Seattle Police Department in instituting videotaping of custodial interrogations, review the use of videotaping in other aspects of the criminal justice system, and research the extent to which other states have adopted legislation dealing with videotaping of custodial interrogations.